

JOHN & JAMES DOBSON CARPET MILL (WEST PARCEL),
BUILDING NO. 9A
Philadelphia
Philadelphia County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5383-I

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695I-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
Mid-Atlantic Regional Office
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
JOHN AND JAMES DOBSON CARPET MILL (West Parcel), BUILDING 9A
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Location:

4041-4055 Ridge Avenue
Philadelphia County
Philadelphia
Pennsylvania

Significance:

Building 9A, built in the late 1930s and early 1940s, is a utilitarian building which does not contribute to the historical character of the Dobson Mill complex because it is less than 50 years old.

Description:

Building 9A, a one-story stuccoed masonry structure, is enclosed on three sides by its common walls with Buildings 8, 9, and 10. Its walls preserve fragments of two previous structures, an 1877 dyehouse and an 1888 extension. Its present form is the result of a major alteration when the building was converted to a garage in the 1930s. The present roof configuration is the result of a series of major alterations to Building 9A and the surrounding structures occurring between the mid-1930s and 1948. The east elevation contains steel sash windows with steel lintels and a circa 1940 central garage door during the early 1940s.

History:

Building 9A is the result of a number of alterations and demolitions to earlier structures. In 1877 a dyehouse of rubblestone with a tin roof was constructed. In 1888, the structure was extended to the west with a rubblestone building which occupied the site of the present Building 9A. By 1893, and until 1933, this building was enclosed on all four sides by Buildings 8 and 10, the dyehouse and a circa 1890 one-story building. The dyehouse's demolition in the mid-1930s exposed the east elevation of Building 9A. In the 1940s, the building was used as a garage. Presently, it serves as an office and storage space.

The John and James Dobson Textile Mill was listed in the National Register in 1987. Building 9A was cited as an intrusion to the complex due to its extensive rebuilding into garage in the late 1930s, early 1940s. The proposed rehabilitation of the complex calls for the demolition of this structure.